

## LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI'S STATEMENT ON THE TAHOE FIRE

**SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi issued the following statement:**

**"On Wednesday I saw firsthand the devastation caused by the Tahoe Angora Fire. My deepest sympathies go out to the residents who have been impacted by this fire and to the homeowners and business owners who have suffered incredible losses.**

"I want to assure everyone that the State of California is working diligently to provide all of the resources needed to protect residents from further losses. Governor Schwarzenegger has put in place an extremely capable team to respond to this disaster and I will continue working closely with him and Director Renteria from the Office of Emergency Services, throughout the containment and recovery process.

"Both state and local governments have been working around the clock to protect the community of South Lake Tahoe and I applaud their continued efforts during such a difficult time. Most importantly, I would like to thank first responders: the firefighters, members of law enforcement and other emergency personnel who have done so much to protect this beautiful area. These men and women put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities and our natural resources.

"The Lake Tahoe region holds a special place in my heart. I was fortunate enough to represent this area as member of the California legislature. And as the Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, I worked with President Clinton and Vice President Gore to help preserve the beauty of Lake Tahoe for future generations.

"South Lake Tahoe will continue to require great assistance in the months ahead and we are dedicated to the urgent needs of this community, to the rebuilding of destroyed homes and the restoration of the forest.

"Again, I would like to thank all of those who are currently serving on the frontlines of this horrific fire. For those who have lost so much in this fire, I want to let you know that we stand with you and will do everything possible to help rebuild your communities."

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